UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

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DP/PROJECTS/7486

ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF AFGHANISTAN

IPF: (1992-96) $70 039 000

(AFG/88/001) - Rural Rehabilitation in Southern and Eastern Afghanistan -

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	26 May 1993
Expected duration:	Five years and eight months
Proposed executing agency:	UNDP/OPS
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Planning
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$10 060 700 Source of funds: IPF
Previous UNDP contribution:	$18 500 000
Total UNDP budget:	$28 560 700

Project background

Since its inception in April 1989, the above-mentioned project has evolved and adapted to changing circumstances affecting rural rehabilitation in Afghanistan. While the current pace of refugee repatriation has slowed, a steady stream of returnees is still expected. The project still remains the principal component of UNDP's rural rehabilitation assistance to Afghanistan. Rehabilitation activities have been carried out during the war, in areas where the Government in Kabul had no presence, through the contracted services of NGOs, both Afghan and international, operating inside Afghanistan across the border from Pakistan. After the fall of the Najibullah Government, the project had continued to expand, following the same basic methodology.

As of 31 December 1992, 304 sub-projects, with an aggregate value of $16.7 million, had been approved for funding under the project. Of these, sub-projects dealing with crop production and agricultural support accounted for $5 million, livestock health $6.8 million, roads $1.2 million, and assistance to disabled Afghans $0.2 million.

Description of project

The main objective of the project is to creat conditions conducive to the return of Afghan refugees from Pakistan and Iran through the restoration of basic rural infrastructure and capacity of food production in areas of Southern and Eastern Afghanistan where security conditions permit effective operations and monitoring.

[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

Subject to adequate security situation, the project will establish field offices in Qandahar, Lashkargah, Khost and Jalalabad. As soon as the security situation allows it, Project Headquarters will be moved to Kabul and technical personnel from Peshawar and Quetta will be relocated to appropriate locations in the Eastern and Southern regions of Afghanistan. The workplan focuses on 14 provinces, with additional activities shared and coordinated in the three provinces of Parwan, Kapisa and Kabul, with the UNDP-funded, OPS-executed project Rural Rehabilitation in Northern, Western and Central Afghanistan (AFG/90/007). Attention will be paid to mainstreaming women's issues in project activities. While relying primarily on Afghan implementing partners for sub-project implementation, the project will work towards development of new techniques to promote greater community involvement during project planning and implementation. Activities in the crop production sector will progressively diminish with no new subcontracts approved after 31 March 1993, on the understanding that FAO will take over the activities in this sector.

By the end of August 1994 the project will have established 120 additional veterinary field units with 700 trained veterinary workers; 1500 km of canals will have been cleaned; 150 drinking water wells repaired; 194,000 cubic meters of irrigation/water supply structure rehabilitated; 245,000 hectares of agricultural land recovered; and training of 28 road repair engineering teams accomplished.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 3,278 work-months of operational and technical personnel; subcontracts to implementing partners with level of funding channelled to each sector based on needs identified by the communities and technically assessed by project personnel; on-the-job training labour and locally available building material such as stone, gravel and sand; tools and equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	2 771 100
Subcontract	6 435 500
Training	3 400
Equipment	296 300
Miscellaneous	554 400
Total	10 060 700

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
AFGHANISTAN

IPF: (1992-96) $70 039 000

(AFG/90/007) - Rural Rehabilitation in Northern, Western and Central Afghanistan (Supplementary Assistance)

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	26 May 1993
Expected duration:	Four years
Proposed executing agency:	UNDP/OPS
Government implementing agency:	Afghan and International NGOs
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$6 577 600 Source of funds: IPF
Previous UNDP contribution:	$9 754 300
Total UNDP budget:	$16 331 900

Project background

The above-mentioned project has its origins in the 1990 UNDP Provincial Strategy which guided projects towards moving into rural areas, as opportunities arose. The project was intended to provide a platform from which UNDP funded community-based activities could be launched in Northern Afghanistan.

The project activities started under Preparatory Assistance in 1990. The experience gained has been utilized in the preparation of the project document and its implementation strategy. Based on the conclusions of the Tripartite Review of the project which was held on 3 November 1991, the full-scale project document was prepared.

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to rehabilitate rural infrastructure in order to improve the quality of life for the resident rural population and create conditions required for the return and resettlement of refugees and displaced persons by raising agricultural output and productivity, rehabilitating infrastructure, and providing economic and social services.

[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

The scope of the project is extended to continue delivering vital rehabilitation inputs to assist the rural population residing in the 150 districts in Northern, Western and Central Afghanistan. The main office was established in Mazar-i-Sharif, with two sub-offices in Herat and Puli-Khumri. The office in Kabul will be re-opened as soon as the security situation permits. The project will assist rural communities in rehabilitation of irrigation systems, drinking water supply and rural sanitation sectors as well as minor repairs of roads.

All activities will involve the participation of local communities in decision-making and supplying labour. A key component of the project is to facilitate community involvement in identifying, planning, prioritizing and implementing rehabilitation activities in their respective areas. So far, the project has been instrumental in the formation of 17 District Development Shuras. Ten of these have so far submitted priority lists of rehabilitation needs in their districts. The success of this methodology will lead to a continuously increasing demand for rehabilitation work; to promote the involvement of women as both participants in mainstream activities and as beneficiaries; and to assess the environment in the formulation, implementation and review of project activities.

Inputs

UNDP will provide additional funds for 85 new subcontracts in the current areas of activity and for expansion of project activities into other geographical areas; sub-projects international personnel (138 work-months), administrative support personnel and national project professional personnel (60 work-months); and miscellaneous costs.

Financial Data

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Personnel	1 487 100
Subcontract	4 892 400
Equipment	(77 600)
Miscellaneous	275 700
Total	6 577 600

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF AFGHANISTAN

IPF:(1992-96) $70 039 000

(AFG/90/008) - Housing for Resettlement) (Supplementary Assistance)

Date of approval by the AC:1/	**26 May 1993**	
Expected duration:	**Two years**	
Proposed executing agency:	**United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS)**	
Proposed UNDP contribution:	**$1 458 100**	**Source of funds: IPF**
Previous UNDP budget:	**$2 742 400**	
Total UNDP budget:	**$4 200 500**	

Project background

Rural and urban settlements in Afghanistan have been severely affected by war over the past fourteen years. A significant part of the population has been displaced, but many are now returning to their homes. It is estimated that at least a million Afghan families will need to rebuild some form of replacement shelter as part of the process of resettlement in their areas of origin, mainly in the rural areas. There are localized shortages of materials, particularly for roofing, since the cultivation of timber and manufacture of traditional building materials has been affected by the war and the prices in rebuilding of resettlement shelter through moderately subsidized manufacturing and supply of key construction materials as well as provision of skilled labour. The above-mentioned project started in June 1991 in the provinces of Kapisa, Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan, Parwan, Paktia and Nangahar. A joint evaluation of UNCHS activities, carried out during early 1992, strongly endorsed the project strategy and recommended an extension and geographical expansion of project activities.

At least 1.5 million refugees have returned to the country during 1992, and a further one million is expected in 1993. At the same time significant movements of internally displaced people continues. So far, resettlement has occurred either in the areas most able to support increased population, or in those closest to the frontier. Further returnees will arguably face

1/ This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

greater obstacles, as they attempt to re-occupy abandoned or marginal areas which will need significant investment in rehabilitation if long-term resettlement can be sustained. This will have a direct impact on the intended beneficiaries of this project by creating an immediate need for affordable shelter materials.

Description of project

The immediate objective of the proposed revision is to respond to shelter needs of returnees and others in areas where reconstruction is feasible. The revision incorporates a strengthened emphasis on sustainable village-based manufacturing enterprises as a means of improving materials supplies and providing local employment. An expansion of subcontracted activities is planned from existing project offices in response to growing needs for assistance in areas of Paktia, Wardak, Logar and Faryab where effective working conditions prevail. In addition, a sub-office will be established in Herat to support resettlement activities in western provinces.

As of May 1993, 32 subcontracts for a total amount of (US)$1,100,000 had been let. The additional outputs of project activities are expected (not foreseen in the original product document) to comprise the following: (a) supply of affordable materials to at least 10,000 rural and village-level urban families to re-build their own shelter; (b) establishment of at least 25 additional village-level manufacturing enterprises to produce essential construction materials; and (c) creation of up to 1000 long-term jobs for skilled workers and 3000 jobs for unskilled workers in the initial phase of production of construction materials.

Inputs

UNDP will provide additional funds for new sub-projects in the current areas of activity and for expansion of project activities in further geographical areas; increased personnel component to reflect the need for additional national staff (in response to a reduction in the number of international staff); 32 new subcontracts for support of housing and manufacturing projects in current areas of activity and for expansion into further geographical areas; construction equipment and materials; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	60 300
Subcontract	1 150 000
Training	(80 000)
Equipment	102 000
Miscellaneous	49 300
External funding (erroneously included in UNDP budget for rev. C)	176 500
Total	1 458 100

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
VENEZUELA

IPF:(1992-96) $ 3 728 000

(VEN/93/005) - Modernization of Customs

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	2 June 1993
Expected duration:	Three years
Proposed executing agency:	Ministry of Finance
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Finance
Government cost sharing:	$ 5 101 200
Previous UNDP contribution:	$ 46 900
Total UNDP budget:	$ 5 148 100

Project background

Following world trends towards global markets and trade liberalization, in 1989 the Government of Venezuela established a new set of policies geared to the progressive elimination of trade barriers and improved access of national producers and consumers to international markets. An illustrative outcome of the aforementioned opening is the establishment of the subregional Free Trade Zone amongst the countries of the Andean Group (Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador) during the period 1991-93. The resulting market comprises over 92 million people, a GDP of(US)$ 150,000 million, purchasing power of (US)$ 23,000 million and an intra-regional trade growth of 35 percent per year.

The implementation of the new trade policies and of their further development, requires a modern custom infrastructure, productive and efficient, capable of responding to the actual requirements of international trade. This implies an organization based on clear procedures and operational guidelines, effective in handling technical and administrative processes, equipped with timely and accurate information, and endowed with a well-defined legal framework. At present, Venezuelan Customs reflect years of neglect, a prolonged lack of managerial standards for administration, a deficient technological support infrastructure and arbitrary human resources policies. As the average promotion time span is 11 years, 98 percent of employees earn a monthly wage equivalent to two minimum salaries; and only 27 percent of workers have an education level beyond high school. There are no incentives, nor training policies to entice personnel retention. Furthermore, there is a high degree of centralization of operative functions, post descriptions are diffuse; and organization manuals are nonexistent. Most of the administrative and field operations are not automated, the communication flows are not well defined; and there is no technical capacity to produce the required information and statistical reports on a timely and accurate basis.

Yet, in 1992 Venezuela's customs handled an imports volume of (US)$ 12,283 millions and

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DEC 1993

(US)$ 2,609 millions of non-oil exports. Customs service was provided through 15 main customs and 22 agencies, staffed with a total of 1300 employees. The estimated income to be generated in 1993 through customs levies is approximately (US)$ 1,000 millions. Some of the problems resulting from the situation previously mentioned include: (i) weak control of tax evasion and illicit trade; (ii) lack of capacity to enforce sanitary norms, environmental regulations, security regulations and antidumping practices; and (iii) sluggishness in the customs clearance process. Acting upon the recommendations outlined in several diagnostics and indepth studies, among those "Venezuela: Guidelines for the reform of Customs Administration" prepared by the IMF, the Government of Venezuela recently transferred customs operations from the Ministry of Finance to a newly created autonomous institution "Aduanas de Venezuela Servicio Autonomo" (AVSA) in order to replace the old fashioned "alcabala" (levy recollector) concept, for a modern organization, self-financed and empowered with administrative flexibility to perform effectively in a changing and competitive environment.

Description of project

The immediate objective of the project is to support the operationalization of AVSA, ensuring the institutional capacity for fulfilling the control and revenue generating functions which have been assigned to it. The project will address the five critical areas of customs operations, namely, information technology, organization, management control, legal structure and human resources.

Project activities will include : (i) implementation and computerization of the administrative information system at AVSA headquarters and agencies; (ii) adaptation and implementation of UNCTAD's system of customs operations ASYCUDA; (iii) interconnection of the administrative information system and ASYCUDA into local and national computer networks; (iv) design and implementation of an organizational structure for AVSA; (v) design and implementation of a management control system; (vi) preparation of a set of internal regulations; (vii) preparation of an amendment proposal to the Organic Customs Law; (viii) preparation of a proposal for the Customs By-Laws; (ix) technical, managerial and administrative training of all AVSA staff; and (x) sensitizing of external users to the concept of modern customs.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 90 work-months of international personnel for consultancies in customs operations and customs information technology, 375.5 work-months of national personnel in project management and coordination, organization, legal framework, human resources, information technology and infrastructure; 148 work-months of administrative support personnel; nine subcontracts for specific consultancies in administrative information systems, management control, legal framework, organization, corporate image, external user sensitizing, training, telecommunications; hardware and software for information processing and telecommunication; training and office equipment; one vehicle, study tours and in-service training.

Financial data

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Personnel	1 317 600
Subcontract	2 106 000
Training	93 000
Equipment	1 545 600
Miscellaneous	39 000
Total	5 101 200

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